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Appl. Serial No. 09/823,566
Preliminary Amendment

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

maintaining an electronic program guide for broadcast content;

receiving content information from a content service provider for one or more stored content data files, wherein each of the one or more stored content data files occupies its own storage space at a client device;

allowing the content service provider to determine a number of line items in the electronic program guide to represent the content information for the one or more stored content data files;

allocating the determined number of line items in the electronic program guide;

allowing a user access to the one or more stored content data files via the electronic program guide by merging the content information for display in the determined number of line items, wherein the electronic program guide includes the content information for the one or more stored content data files and content information for the broadcast content; and

charging the content service provider an amount for each allocated line item; and

once the user accesses one of the one or more stored content data files, making the storage space of the accessed stored content data file at the client device available for storage

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of another content data file ~~not currently having its own storage space at the client device to~~
be broadcast at a later time.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the allocating the determined number of line items further comprises:

assigning an allocated line item to each of the one or more stored content data files.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the allocating the determined number of line items further comprises:

grouping the one or more stored content data files into one or more categories; and
assigning an allocated line item to each of the one or more categories.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the allocating the determined number of line items further comprises:

assigning an allocated line item to the content service provider.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more stored content data files are each one of a movie, a music file, a video game and computer media.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium including program instructions

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that direct a computer to function in the specified manner when executed by a processor, the program instructions comprise:

maintaining an electronic program guide for broadcast content;

receiving content information from a content service provider for one or more stored content data files, wherein each of the one or more stored content data files occupies its own storage space at a client device;

allowing the content service provider to determine a number of line items in the electronic program guide to represent the content information for the one or more stored content data files;

allocating the determined number of line items in the electronic program guide;

allowing a user access to the one or more stored content data files via the electronic program guide by merging the content information for display in the determined number of line items, wherein the electronic program guide includes the content information for the one or more stored content data files and content information for the broadcast content; and

charging the content service provider an amount for each allocated line item; and

once the user accesses one of the one or more stored content data files, making the storage space of the accessed stored content data file at the client device available for storage of another content data file ~~not currently having its own storage space at the client device to~~ be broadcast at a later time.

8. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein the program instruction of allocating the determined number of line items further comprises:

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assigning an allocated line item to each of the one or more stored content data files.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein the program instructions of allocating the determined number of line items further comprises:

grouping the one or more stored content data files into one or more categories; and
assigning an allocated line item to each of the one or more categories.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein the program instructions of allocating the determined number of line items further comprises:

assigning an allocated line item to the content service provider.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein the one or more stored content data files are each one of a movie, a music file, a video game and computer media.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;

a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications interface to broadcast data to one or more client systems, and to receive data from the one or more client systems; and

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a storage device coupled to the processor, having sequences of instructions stored therein, which when executed by the processor cause the processor to:

maintain an electronic program guide for broadcast content;

receive content information from a content service provider for one or more stored content data files, wherein each of the one or more stored content data files occupies its own storage space at a client device,

allow the content service provider to determine a number of line items in the electronic program guide to represent the content information for the one or more stored content data files,

allocate the determined number of line items in the electronic program guide,

allow a user access to the one or more stored content data files via the electronic program guide by merging the content information for display in the determined number of line items,

charge the content service provider an amount for each allocated line item, and

once the user accesses one of the one or more stored content data files, make the storage space of the accessed stored content data file at the client device available for storage of another content data file ~~not currently having its own storage space at the client device to be broadcast at a later time.~~

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the instruction to allocate the determined number of line items further causes the processor to:

assign an allocated line item to each of the one or more stored content data files.

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15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the instruction to allocate the determined number of line items further causes the processor to:

group the one or more stored content data files into one or more categories; and

assign an allocated line item to each of the one or more categories.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the instruction to allocate the determined number of line items further causes the processor to:

assign an allocated line item to the content service provider.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the one or more stored content data files are each one of a movie, a music file, a video game and computer media.

18. (Canceled).